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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to an improved user interface for controlling plural different interfaces that exist in user interfaces such as those used to control an image acquisition device. One conventional arrangement for providing a user interface with multiple different interfaces consists of a property page having buttons corresponding to each different interface. When a button is selected, a separate window containing the interface is displayed. The separate window is modal which means that the user must make any desired adjustments within the window and exit the window before selecting another interface. This is cumbersome and unwieldy.

The present invention addresses the foregoing problems by providing a user interface wherein multiple interfaces may be displayed within a property page of a property sheet, the property sheet having a tab corresponding to each of the property pages of a property sheet. A user may select a property page within a property sheeting using its corresponding tab. The multiple interfaces are displayable in a property page of the property sheet.

More particularly, the user interface of amended Claim 74 comprises a property sheet containing property pages each of which contains plural elements, and plural selection

elements corresponding to plural interfaces displayable in the property page. The property sheet further comprising tabs each of which identifying a property page of the property sheet. An interface is provided in the property page in response to selection of a selection element by showing the elements comprising the interface corresponding to the selection element and hiding the other elements.

The art of record is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 74. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest a property sheet containing tabs each identifying a property page which in turn contains plural elements and plural interfaces that are displayable in the property page. An interface being provided, in the property page in response to selection of a selection element of the property page, by showing only those of the plural elements that comprise the interface and hiding all other of the plural elements.

Rather, the applied art is seen to disclose an "Options" window that includes an icon portion and an option portion. The option portion (e.g., "Size Settings" display of Figure 2-26 and the "Picture Adjustments" display of Figure 2-28) is changed in response to selection of an icon in the icon portion of the Options window.

Figures 2-26 and 2-28 in the HP ScanJet User's Guide are not seen to teach or suggest a property sheet

containing tabbed property pages and each of the property pages containing selection elements for selecting interfaces displayable in the property page, each of the interfaces being provided by showing elements of the interface.

In view of the foregoing, amended Claim 74 is believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, amended Claims 81, 85, 95 and 102 are also believed to be in allowable condition for at least the same reasons stated above, and such action is respectfully requested, because amended Claims 81, 85, 95 and 102 contain at least the same combination of features of amended Claim 74.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the reference

entitled, "The Windows® Interface Guidelines for Software Design", Microsoft Press, 1995, (9 pages), which is listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and a copy of which is enclosed.

The subject application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice Of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the \$240.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the reference cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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